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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/520,513	01/07/2005	Mario Polegato Moretti	264325US6PCT	5466

22850 7590 06/05/2009  
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
1940 DUKE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER
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KAVANAUGH, JOHN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3728

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/05/2009

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com  
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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/520,513	<b>Applicant(s)</b> MORETTI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> /Ted Kavanaugh/	<b>Art Unit</b> 3728	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 April 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8,9,12 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8,9,12 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                     | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 8-9, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5983524 (Polegato) in view of the prior art admitted on page 5, line 16 to page 6, line 2.

Polegato teaches a waterproof and breathable sole (see figure 9) including a tread member (503) including a border and/or a perimetric element (the upper flange portions of the tread 503) and a midsole component comprising a lower protective layer (516), and a membrane (515) wherein the membrane and the protective layer are joined by spot gluing; see col. 3, lines 11-15. Polegato lacks the spot gluing being a thermoreactive adhesive. Applicant teaches in the specification (see page 5, line 16, to page 6, line 2) that a thermoreactive adhesive is known. Such an adhesive is used to provide a stronger bond between layers; see page 5, lines 24-26. Therefore, it would have been obvious for the adhesive (glue) of Polegato to be a thermoreactive adhesive to provide a stronger bond between the layers. Figure 9 was sighted above but all of the other embodiments also have a tread and a midsole component has a membrane and lower protective layer. The method of making and the method of joining in claims 14 and 12, respectively, do not add any further limitations to the claims. The method

steps follow the obvious method of assembling the waterproof and breathable sole for footwear as taught above. With regard to the tread and the border formed as a single piece, the tread 503 which consist of the border is a single piece as shown in figure 9.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed 4/17/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that in the present application the border 17 “extends over the midsole” to “create a seal above the membrane” and the border of Polegato doesn't extend over and above the membrane 518.

In response, no such features such as “extends over” and “above” are claimed and therefore these arguments are moot. Furthermore, the border of the tread 503 of Polegato does extend above the membrane 518 inasmuch as it extend higher up into the upper, see figure 9. The border of Polegato extends over the ends of the membrane and therefore seals the edges of the midsole component. Applicant would need to get more specific to read over figure 9 of the Polegato reference.

Applicant argues that Polegato does not render obvious teaching of the present invention as there is no disclosure of a thermally irreversible adhesive.

In response, a “thermally irreversible adhesive” is not claimed. Moreover, the rejection above points out that Polegato lacks the thermoreactive adhesive but applicant specification teaches thermoreactive adhesives are known, see the rejection above for further details.

Applicant argues that the “thermoreactive adhesive” is from the medical field and thus the shoes as taught by Polegato are from a different field far from each other.

In response, the admitted prior art from the specification is being be used as it teaching of providing a better adhesive to obtain a stronger bond. Merely substituting one adhesive for a better adhesive would provide a benefit to the shoe of Polegato. Therefore, the combination would provide a predictable result.

### ***Conclusion***

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. **Applicant is duly reminded that a complete response must satisfy the requirements of 37 C.F. R. 1.111, including:**

**--“The reply must present arguments pointing out the *specific* distinctions believed to render the claims, including any newly presented claims, patentable over any applied references.”**

**--“A general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references does not comply with the requirements of this section.”**

**-Moreover, “The prompt development of a clear issue requires that the replies of the applicant meet the objections to and rejections of the claims. Applicant should also specifically point out the support for any amendments made to the disclosure. See MPEP 2163.06” MPEP 714.02. The “disclosure” includes the claims, the specification and the drawings.**

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Other useful information can be obtained at the PTO Home Page at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov).

In order to avoid potential delays, Technology Center 3700 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Center at (571) 273-8300 **(FORMAL FAXES ONLY)**. Please identify Examiner Ted Kavanaugh of Art Unit 3728 at the top of your cover sheet.

Any inquiry concerning the MERITS of this examination from the examiner should be directed to Ted Kavanaugh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4556. The examiner can normally be reached from 6AM - 4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4562.

Application/Control Number: 10/520,513  
Art Unit: 3728

Page 6

/Ted Kavanaugh/  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3728

TK  
June 3, 2009